



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 6/27/2003

GAIN Report #IN3051

India

Agricultural Situation

Monsoon Progress Report, No. 1

2003

Approved by:

Michael Riedel

U.S. Embassy, New Delhi

Prepared by:

A. Govindan

Report Highlights:

Slightly below-normal monsoon forecast, but actual progress to-date satisfactory.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
New Delhi [IN1], IN

Monsoon Progress Satisfactory

The southwest monsoon arrived at the southern tip of India on June 8, one week behind schedule, but progressed rapidly to cover most parts of India, except the northwest by June 27. Most of northern India received excellent pre-monsoon rains during the past week, providing relief from the sweltering heat and creating favorable soil moisture conditions.

According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) data, 20 of the 36 weather subdivisions received normal or above normal rainfall for the week ending June 18, compared to 23 during the corresponding period of last year.

Planting of the kharif (monsoon season) crops (rice, coarse grains, pulses, peanuts, soybeans, sugarcane, and cotton) has started and will continue through early August. According to preliminary reports, progressive planting of most crops, with the exception of sugarcane, is behind last year's level, mainly due to poor soil moisture conditions and inadequate irrigation following last year's drought. There have also been reports of a shortage of quality seeds for some crops, particularly soybeans, peanuts, and pulses.

Below Normal Monsoon Forecast

The IMD's long range forecast based upon the newly adopted 8-parameter Power Regression Model for the 2003 South-West Monsoon Season (June-September) is that rainfall for the country as a whole is likely to be 96 percent of the Long Period Average (LPA) of 88 cm, with a model error of +/- 5 percent. The model indicates a :

- C 21 percent probability of drought (rainfall less than 90 percent of LPA)
- C 39 percent probability of below normal rainfall (90 to 97 percent of LPA)
- C 14 percent probability of near normal rainfall (98 to 102 percent of LPA)
- C 23 percent probability of above normal rainfall (103 to 110 percent of LPA)
- C 3 percent probability of excess rainfall (more than 110 percent of LPA)

The Center for Mathematical Modeling and Computer Simulation of the Indian Council of Scientific and Industrial Research also forecast a below-normal monsoon in 2003. According to this forecast, rainfall during the June-September monsoon period is estimated at 15 percent below LPA.